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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R.
§1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3739**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Parris S. Wellman, et al.	Examiner:	Michael F. Peffley
Serial No:	10/615,152	Art Unit:	3739
Filed:	July 8, 2003	Docket:	14641Z (ETH-1559CONT)
For:	SURGICAL DEVICE FOR CLAMPING, LIGATING, AND SEVERING TISSUE		
Dated:	December 5, 2005		

Conf. No.: 8263

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed September 28,

2005. Entry and consideration of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 5, 2005.

Dated: December 5, 2005


Dermott J. Cooke